

## CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:  
obtaining information describing color properties of a device that generates an  
5 image; and  
embedding the information within raster image data associated with the image  
such that the embedded information does not substantially affect the visual appearance  
of the image to a user.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes a color profile.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the color profile is one of the following:  
a spectral profile and a colorimetric profile.
- 15 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising extracting the color profile from the  
image.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising modifying the image based on the  
color profile, and displaying the modified image.
- 20 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising modifying the image based on the  
color profile, and printing the modified image.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the information describing color properties  
25 includes a path indicating a network location of a color profile for the image.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the path is an internet uniform resource locator.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a border, and wherein  
30 embedding information includes embedding the information within the border.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising embedding an indicator within the image, the indicator indicating that information describing color properties of the image is stored within the image.

5 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising embedding an indicator within the image, the indicator identifying where the information describing color properties of the image is stored within the image.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising attaching an indicator to the image,  
10 the indicator indicating that information describing color properties of the image is stored within the image.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a border for the image and embedding the information within raster image data of the border.

15 14. A method comprising:  
receiving an image file of an image; and  
extracting information describing color properties of the image from raster  
image data of the image file.

20 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the information describing color properties of the image includes a color profile.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the color profile is one of a spectral profile  
25 and a colorimetric profile.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising displaying the image according to the color profile.

30 18. The method of claim 15, further comprising printing the image according to the color profile.

19. The method of claim 14 wherein the information describing color properties includes a path to find a color profile for the image.

5 20 The method of claim 19, wherein the path is an internet uniform resource locator.

21. The method of claim 14, further comprising, prior to extracting embedded information, detecting embedded information.

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22. The method of claim 21, wherein detecting embedded information comprises detecting an indicator.

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23. The method of claim 22, wherein detecting the indicator comprises detecting the indicator embedded within the image.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein detecting the indicator comprises detecting the indicator attached to the image.

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25. An image file comprising:  
raster image data; and  
information embedded within the raster image data describing color properties of the image, such that the embedded information does not substantially affect the visual appearance of the image to a user.

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26. The image of claim 25, wherein the information embedded within the raster image data comprises a color profile.

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27. The image of claim 25, wherein the information embedded within the raster image data alters the image.

28. The image of claim 27, wherein the alteration is not perceivable to a human observer.

29. The image of claim 25, wherein the image includes a border and the  
5 information embedded within the raster image data is embedded in the border.

30. A computer readable medium carrying program code that upon execution:  
embeds information describing color properties of a device within raster image  
data associated with an image such that the embedded information does not  
10 substantially affect the visual appearance of the image to a user.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 30 further carrying program code that  
upon execution:  
extracts the information from the image.  
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32. The computer readable medium of claim 31 further carrying program code that  
upon execution:  
modifies the image based on the information.

20 33. The computer readable medium of claim 30 further carrying program code that  
upon execution:  
embeds an indicator within the image.

34. The computer readable medium of claim 30 further carrying program code that  
25 upon execution:  
attaches an indicator to the image.

35. The computer readable medium of claim 30 further carrying program code that  
upon execution:  
30 creates a border for the image and embeds the information within raster image  
data of the border.

36. A computer readable medium carrying program code that upon execution:  
extracts information describing color properties of the image from raster image  
data of the image file.

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37. The computer readable medium of claim 36 further carrying program code that  
upon execution:  
detects embedded information describing color properties of the image.

10 38. The computer readable medium of claim 36 further carrying program code that  
upon execution:  
modifies the image based on the information.

15 39. An image acquisition device comprising:  
memory that stores a color profile of the device; and  
a data embedding module that embeds the color profile in image data acquired  
by the device.

20 40. The image acquisition device of claim 39, wherein the device is a scanner.

41. The image acquisition device of claim 39, wherein the device is a digital  
camera.

25 42. A system comprising:  
an image acquisition device; and  
a host computer coupled to the image acquisition device, the host computer  
including a memory device that stores a color profile of the image acquisition device  
and a data embedding module that embeds the color profile in image data acquired by  
the image acquisition device.

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